

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I strongly support the petition of Mr. Napurano to retain a 5 wpm Morse code proficiency requirement as part of the amateur radio licensing structure. I cannot think of a more fundamental form of communications than Morse code, which has the unique ability to facilitate successful communications when all other modes may fail. I have personally witnessed such situations myself.

It is also inconceivable to me that an individual having sufficient intelligence to pass a written examination covering subjects pertaining to electronics, radio communications, and FCC rules cannot learn to send and receive Morse code at 5 wpm, an extremely slow speed. Deleting the code proficiency requirement from the licensing structure may sadly reflect a "who needs it any more" attitude, or perhaps even more alarming a lack of willingness to learn. In my opinion, amateur radio operators have an implied obligation to learn Morse code at a basic level as a means of justifying their operating privileges, regardless of class of license.

Why? There may be times in the future when public emergencies occur and the only form of reliable communications under adverse conditions will be Morse code. Individual lives may be at risk at such times, as may be the safety of the public at large. Even though many amateurs may never have occasion to use Morse code under emergency conditions, it seems to be a very small resource investment to make to complement our overall national emergency communications readiness. A basic 5 wpm code proficiency requirement should be a required element of every amateur radio operator license examination.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Myron W. Manker